GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2748
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2003
GROUND WATER FOR IRRIGATION
ANADI CHARAN SAHU;SUKENDER REDDY GUTHA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether lopsided increase in ground water for irrigation has created ecological imbalance in the past many years;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose enactments for introducing license system for digging of deep tubewells and mechanized wells;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose mass rain water harvesting structures to recharge the receding level of ground water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Increase in ground water development for various purposes including irrigation has resulted in decline in ground water level in some localized pockets of various parts of the country.

(b) No, Sir. However, the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 has declared 11 areas as "Notified" prohibiting further digging of tubewells without prior approval of the CGWA.

(c) & (d) During the IX Plan, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources, had taken up demonstrative rainwater harvesting and recharge projects in the country, under its Central Sector Scheme on 'Study of Recharge to Ground Water'. The CGWB has also prepared a report, entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater". The details of funding pattern for implementation of this Plan, implementing agencies etc., are under discussion.